

Message Text

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61

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-08 IO-13 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-05

SAB-01 /091 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION SINAI
CINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 8

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR JULY 8,
1976:

Q. ONE QUESTION, IF I COULD ASK THIS. IN THE TEL AVIV
AIRPORT GEORGE GARFUNKEL OF NEW YORK, ONE OF THE TEN
AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO WAS RESCUED BY THE ISRAELIS IN
UGANDA, SAID -- AND I QUOTE -- "OUR GOVERNMENT DID NOT CARE
ABOUT US. THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT DID CARE. AMERICANS
DIDN'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT US, BUT ISRAEL FREED US." WHAT
IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENT ON THIS?

A. OF COURSE OUR GOVERNMENT AND OUR PEOPLE CARED VERY
MUCH ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO WERE HELD HOSTAGE BY THE
TERRORISTS IN UGANDA; AND WE HAVE DESCRIBED DAILY IN THESE
BRIEFINGS SINCE THAT HIJACKING TOOK PLACE WHAT THE UNITED
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STATES GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN DOING. AS FAR AS THE FREEING
OF THE HOSTAGES, INCLUDING THE SIXTEEN AMERICAN CITIZENS,
THE PRESIDENT SENT A PERSONAL MESSAGE ON BEHALF OF ALL OF
US.

Q. I WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW THAT UP IF I COULD. RONALD
REAGAN, WHEN NOTIFIED ABOUT THIS RESCUE, MADE THE STATEMENT,
"THIS IS WHAT AMERICANS USED TO DO." AND ON MONDAY THE

PRESIDENT PAID GREAT TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT JEFFERSON WHO SENT THE NAVY TO THE BARBARY COAST. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT FEEL THAT MR. JEFFERSON'S ACTION ON THIS IS OUT OF DATE?

A. AS A PERSONAL ADMIRER OF JEFFERSON AND AS A JEFFERSONIAN AND THE FACT THAT HE WAS OUR FIRST SECRETARY OF STATE, I, OF COURSE, APPROVE OF ALL OF THE ACTIONS OF JEFFERSON OF WHICH I AM AWARE. IN INCIDENTS AS THEY COME UP IN MODERN TIMES, OBVIOUSLY YOU HAVE TO TAKE THEM ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AND MAKE THE BEST DECISIONS THAT ARE POSSIBLE CONSISTENT WITH WHAT IS POSSIBLE. WE HAVE SAID WHAT WE HAVE DONE. AND WE HAVE STATED PUBLICLY OUR REACTION TO THE ACTION BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, AND I REALLY DO NOT HAVE MUCH BEYOND THAT.

Q. I JUST WONDERED IN MY ABSENCE WAS THERE ANYTHING MORE? AS I REMEMBER YOU SAID WE CONTACTED THE WEST GERMAN EMBASSY THAT REPRESENTS OUR INTERESTS IN UGANDA, AND YOU ALSO SAID WE CONTACTED THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS. WAS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THE UNITED STATES DID?

A. IN TERMS OF OBTAINING THE RELEASE, WE WERE IN CONTACT WITH A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS THAT WERE PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED, AS WELL AS THE RED CROSS, AS WELL AS THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY WHICH REPRESENTS OUR INTERESTS IN UGANDA, URGING THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THE TERRORISTS TO RELEASE THE HOSTAGES UNHARMED.

Q. YOU SAID THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WAS ON BEHALF OF ALL OF US OR FOR ALL OF US. DOES THAT IN ANY WAY FORETELL THE UNITED STATES POSITION AT THE UN DEBATE ON THIS SUBJECT?
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A. NO. AS I SAID YESTERDAY, OUR POSITION ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE WILL COME OUT DURING THE DEBATE ITSELF. I AM NOT COMMENTING ON THE DEBATE.

Q. ON THAT SUBJECT, THERE IS A REPORT THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE ASSURANCES FROM THE UNITED STATES THAT THE U.S. WOULD VETO ANY ONE-SIDED ATTEMPT TO CONDEMN ISRAEL FOR THE RAID. IS THAT TRUE?

A. I AM JUST NOT ABLE TO COMMENT ON THAT AND OTHER REPORTS SPECULATING ABOUT OUR POSITION. AS I SAID YESTERDAY, I AM NOT ABLE TO DISCUSS OUR POSITION IN ADVANCE OF THE DEBATE ITSELF.

Q. STILL ON THE SUBJECT OF THE RAID, THERE ARE FURTHER REPORTS THAT MRS. DORA BLOCH, THE SINGLE REMAINING HOSTAGE, WAS TAKEN SCREAMING FROM THE HOSPITAL AND PRESUMABLY WAS SMOTHERED DURING THE ATTEMPT. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THAT?

A. I HAVE SEEN PRESS REPORTS. WE HAVE NO OTHER INFORMATION THAT I AM AWARE OF, BUT LET ME CHECK INTO IT TO SEE IF WE HAVE ANYTHING.

Q. WOULD THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FAVOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL POLICE FORCE TO DEAL WITH HIJACKING INCIDENTS LIKE THIS?

A. I CANNOT REALLY ANSWER THAT QUESTION SPECIFICALLY. WE HAVE PUT OUT A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS ON HIJACKING, AND WE ARE CERTAINLY PREPARED TO CONSIDER IDEAS THAT OTHER PEOPLE HAVE. BUT WE DO THINK THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD ADOPT, OR SHOULD AGREE ON HOW TO TREAT AND HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM.

Q. AMONG THE PROPOSALS YOU HAVE PUT OUT, IS THERE A PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL POLICE FORCE?

A. I DO NOT RECALL THAT, BUT LET ME CHECK INTO IT.

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Q. IS THERE ANY CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN IN THE ADMINISTRATION TO FORMING THE KIND OF UNIT THAT THE ISRAELIS USED TO CARRY OUT THE RAID?

A. I AM JUST NOT IN A POSITION TO COMMENT ON THAT. I DO NOT KNOW.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE169499
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EOJONES:RGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760264-0543
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760777/aaaacqbi.tel
Line Count: 209
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schwenja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 FEB 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by schwenja>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 8 FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, US
To: AMMAN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006